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British Museum (Natural History)
Dept. of Zoology
Guide to the gallery of Birds

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British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Dept. of Zoology

GUIDE

TO THE

GALLERY OF BIRDS

IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

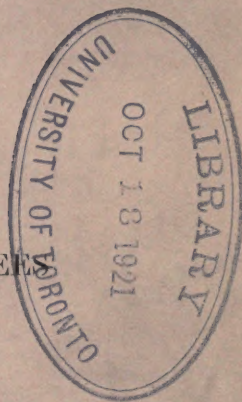
ATLAS OF 24 PLATES WITH EXPLANATIONS.

LONDON:

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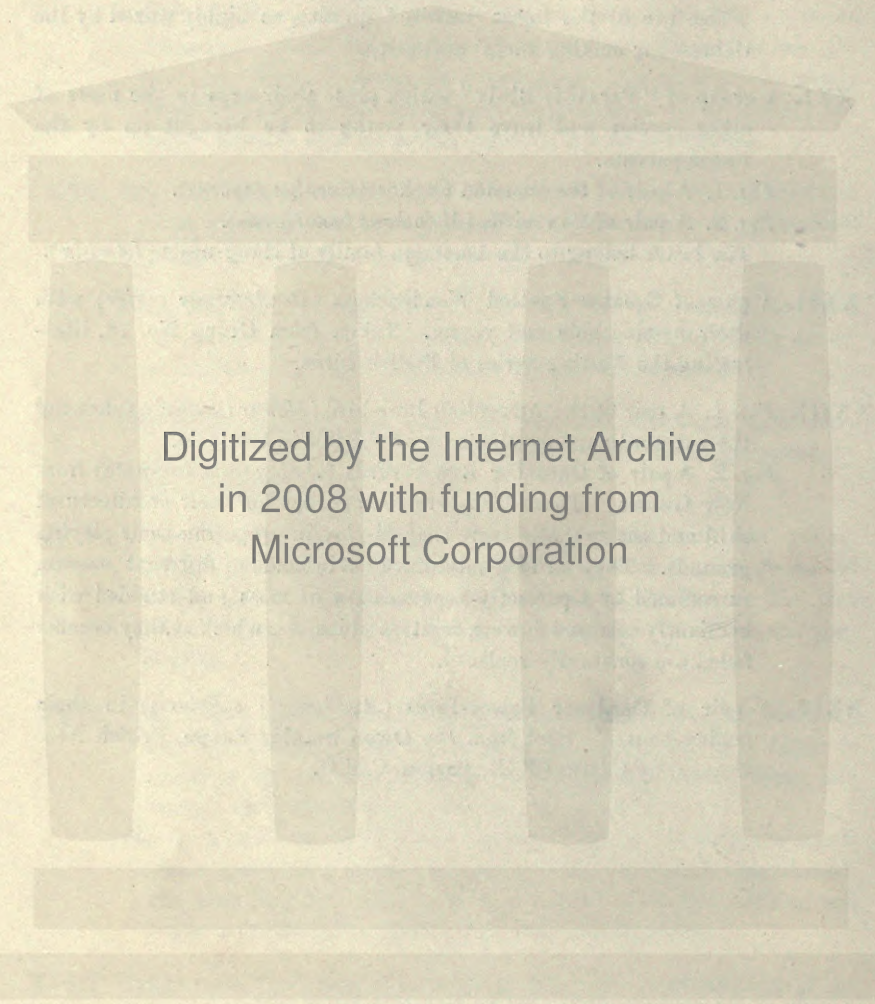
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EXPLANATION OF PLATES.

- I. Shaw's Kiwi (*Apteryx australis*), from a mounted specimen exhibited in the Gallery; showing the relatively enormous size of the egg laid by this New Zealand bird.
- II. *Fig. 1.* A photograph of the Plate in Strickland and Melville's 'Dodo and its Kindred,' which is a facsimile of Savery's picture, 1626, of the Dodo in the Royal Gallery at Berlin.
Fig. 2. The nearly complete skeleton exhibited in the Gallery, found in 1855 by Mr. George Clarke in the black alluvial soil at "La Mare aux Songes" near Mahébourg, Mauritius. It was described and figured by Sir Richard Owen in the Transactions of the Zoological Society, vi. p. 49.
 A dried right-foot, exhibited in the Gallery; received by the British Museum in 1781.
- III. Group of New Zealand Penguins, taken from specimens exhibited in the Gallery.
- IV. A pair of Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) feeding their young one, taken from Group No. 97, illustrating the Nesting-Series of British Birds.
- V. Great Auk (*Plautus impennis*), from the specimen in the Museum which was procured at Labrador and once formed part of the Lidth de Jeude Collection.
- VI. A pair of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) with their nest and eggs, taken from Group No. 124, illustrating the Nesting-Series of British Birds.
- VII. Sandwich Terns (*Sterna cantiaca*) with their nests and eggs surrounded by plants of sea-campion and sorrel. Taken from Group No. 126, illustrating the Nesting-Series of British Birds.
- VIII. A pair of Kentish Plovers (*Egialitis alexandrina*) and two nests containing respectively three young birds and three eggs, from Group No. 112, illustrating the Nesting-Series of British Birds.
- IX. Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*). Taken from the Group exhibited in one of the central cases in the Gallery. The right-hand figure (c) shows the male in courting attitude. The birds were mounted by Mr. G. Pickhardt and are admirably represented.

- X. A pair of Hoatzins (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) with their nest and eggs, exhibited in one of the central cases.
- XI. Sun-Bittern (*Eurypyga major*) mounted with outspread wings in an attitude the bird is fond of assuming.
- XII. *Fig. 1.* The Cariama (*Cariama cristata*), a South American bird whose position in the Avian System has given rise to much discussion. Some authors have placed it in the Accipitres near the Secretary-Bird (*Serpentarius serpentarius*), *Fig. 2*, which it closely resembles in general appearance and in some of its habits; but many consider that its proper position is with the Cranes.
- XIII. The Australian plumed Egret (*Mesophoyx plumifera*), in breeding-dress, shewing the "dorsal train" of feathers used as ornamental plumes and known among dealers as "Ospreys."
- XIV. Little Bitterns (*Ardeetta minuta*), one of which is mounted to shew the immature bird in a protective attitude with the body drawn up to its fullest extent to imitate the surrounding reeds.
- XV. Represents a very old male of Steller's Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*), exhibited in the Group of these birds presented by Mr. Henry Seebohm.
- XVI. A female Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) with her young. Taken from Group No. 155, illustrating the Nesting-Series of British Birds; the male is not included in the Plate. The bird beneath the foot of the female is a Golden Plover in summer-plumage.
- XVII. *Fig. 1.* The Kaka Parrot (*Nestor meridionalis*) from New Zealand, which is closely allied to the Kea (*N. notabilis*). The latter is notorious on account of its habit of attacking living sheep and tearing open their backs to devour the kidney-fat.
Fig. 2. A male of the Pennant-winged Nightjar (*Cosmetornis vexillarius*) which has the ninth primary quill enormously lengthened. The bird is well known to most travellers in Tropical Africa, and presents a remarkable appearance when on the wing.
- XVIII. Taken from the Group, No. 99, illustrating the breeding-place of the Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*), Nesting-Series of British Birds. The birds perched outside the entrance formed part of the brood and were respectively six and seven weeks old. The parent bird and remaining young can be seen in the Case, part of the bank having been removed to shew the internal construction of the burrow.

- XIX. A group of Indian Hornbills including a pair of the Rufous-necked Hornbill (*Aceros nepalensis*) and the Homrai (*Dichoceros bicornis*), two of the largest species. The Plate shews the extraordinary development of the bill in these birds.
- XX. Represents a portion of the interior of a cave in which a colony of Esculent Swifts (*Collocalia fuciphaga*) have attached their nests. These are of the finest "white" quality, so highly prized by the Chinese for making Birds'-nest soup.
- XXI. A group of "Parasitic Birds" which place their eggs in the nests of other species and leave their young to be brought up by the foster-parents.
Fig. 1. A pair of the common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).
Fig. 2. A pair of Cow-birds (*Molothrus bonariensis*).
The latter belong to the American family of Hang-nests (*Icteridæ*).
- XXII. A pair of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopus major*) with their nesting-hole and young. Taken from Group No. 78, illustrating the Nesting-Series of British Birds.
- XXIII. *Fig. 1.* A pair of the Australian Lyre-bird (*Menura superba*) shewing the extraordinary development of the tail in the male.
Fig. 2. A pair of Gardener Bower-Birds (*Amblyornis inornata*) from New Guinea. These birds are remarkable for their architectural skill and the æsthetic taste they display in preparing their playing grounds. They build a miniature cabin made of different mosses, surrounded by a perfectly-kept meadow of moss and studded with brilliantly coloured flowers, fruits, and insects, which as they become faded are constantly replaced.
- XXIV. A pair of Gardener Bower-Birds (*Amblyornis subalaris*) in their "Play-house." Sent from the Owen Stanley Range, British New Guinea, by Captain F. R. Barton, C.M.G.



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SHAW'S KIWĪ (*Apteryx australis*) WITH EGG. No. 22.

FIG. 1.

DODO (*Didus ineptus*.) FROM A PICTURE BY ROELANDT SAVERY, 1626.

FIG. 2.



SKELETON AND FOOT OF DODO. No. 205.



GROUP OF NEW ZEALAND PENGUINS.

- a, Rock-hopper Penguin. b, Little Blue Penguin. c, Thick-billed Penguin.
 (*Catarrhactes chrysocome*.) No. 344. (*Endiaptula undina*.) No. 352 A. (*Catarrhactes pachyrhynchus*.) No. 343.
 d, Yellow-crowned Penguin. e, young, King Penguin; f, adult.
 (*Megadyptes antipodum*.) No. 346. (*Aptenodytes patagonica*.) No. 350.



PUFFINS (*Fraterecula arctica*) WITH YOUNG. Nesting Series, No. 97.

a, young; *b*, male; *c*, female.



GREAT AUK (*Plautus impennis*) WITH EGG. No. 406.



b

HERRING GULLS (*Larus argentatus*). Nesting Series, No. 124.

a, female: b, male.



SANDWICH TERNS (*Sterna cantiuca*) WITH EGGS. Nesting Series, No. 126.
a, *b*, females; *c*, male.



a, young birds.

b, female.

c, male.

d, eggs.

KENTISH PLOVERS (*Egialitis alexandrina*) WITH YOUNG AND EGGS. Nesting Series, No. 112.



GREAT BUSTARDS (*Otis tarda*). No. 585.
a, male; *b*, female; *c*, male in courting attitude.



a, female.
HOATZINS (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) WITH NEST AND EGGS. No. 594.
b, male.



SUN-BITTEEN (*Eurypyga major*). No. 599.

FIG. 1.



BRAZILIAN CARIAMA (*Cariama cristata*).
No. 596.

FIG. 2.



SOUTH AFRICAN SECRETARY-BIRD (*Serpephaga serpentarius*).
No. 828.



AUSTRALIAN PLUMED EGRET (*Mesophoyx plumifera*). No. 649.



a, adult male.

b, immature bird.

LITTLE BITTERNS (*Ardetta minuta*), SHOWING IMMATURE BIRD IN PROTECTIVE ATTITUDE. No. 622.



STELLER'S SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*). No. 922.
Adult male.



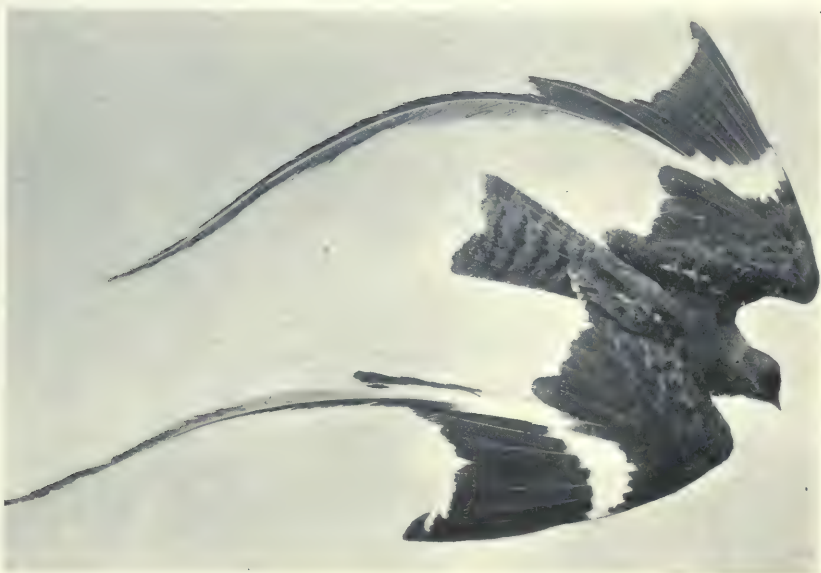
a, b, young females. c, young male. d, adult female.
PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) WITH YOUNG. Nesting Series, No. 155.

FIG. 1.



KAKA PARROT (*Nestor meridionalis*). No. 1108.

FIG. 2.



PENNANT-WINGED NIGHTJAR (*Cosmetornis verillarius*). No. 1215.
Adult male.



a, male.

b, female.

c, female.

d, male.

GROUP OF INDIAN HORNBILLS.

a, *b*, Rufous-necked Hornbill.

c, *d*, Hornrai.

(*Acerus nepalensis*.) No. 1199.

(*Dichoceros bicornis*.) No. 1190.



ESCULENT SWIFTS (*Collocalia fuciphaga*) AND THEIR NESTS. No. 1244.



GROUP OF PARASITIC BIRDS.

1
Common Cuckoos.
(*Cuculus canorus*.) No. 1385.

2
Cow-Birds.
(*Molothrus bonariensis*.) No. 2655.

a, males; b, females.



GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKERS (*Dendrocopus major*) AND YOUNG. Nesting Series, No. 78.
 d, adult male: a, adult female: b, c, e, young.

FIG. 1.



a, female.

b, male.

Lvre BIRDS (*Menura superba*). No. 1568.

FIG. 2.



a, male.

b, female.

GARDENER BOWER-BIRDS (*Amblyornis inornata*). No. 2758.



"PLAY-HOUSE" OF THE GARDENER-BOWER-BIRD (*Amblyornis subalaris*). No. 2758A

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